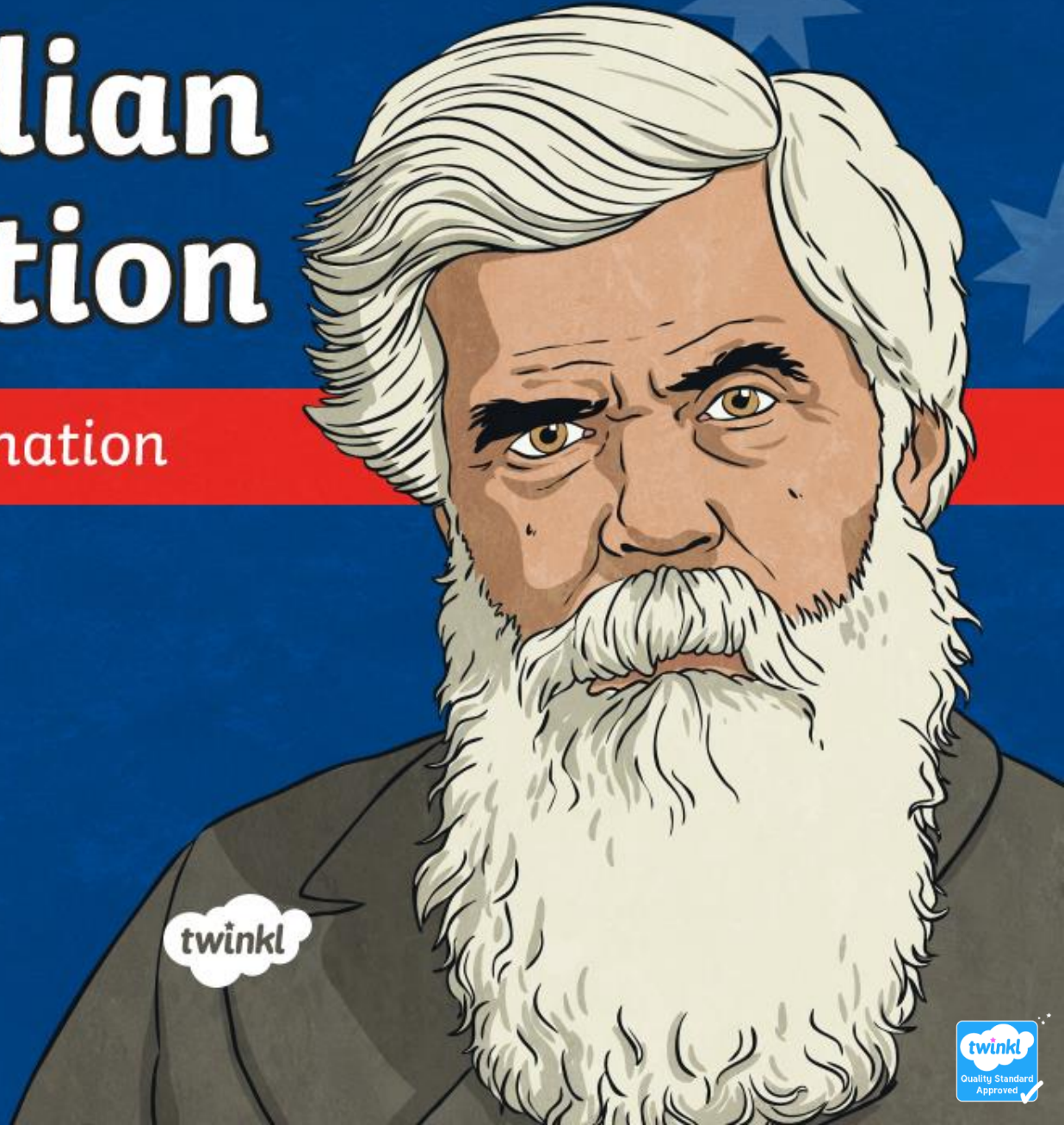


# Australian Federation

The making of a nation



twinkl

# Learning Objective:

To learn how Australia became a nation through the Federation: significant events leading up to Federation, reasons for and against Federation and the making of the Constitution.

# Key Inquiry Question:

What are the significant events that led to the six separate colonies to federate? Who are the key figures responsible for influencing the Federation?

# Australian Curriculum

## Year 6

### Historical Knowledge and Understanding

#### Australia As a Nation

- Key figures and events that led to Australia's Federation, including British and American influences on Australia's system of law and government.

[\(ACHHK113\)](#)

### Civics and Citizenship Knowledge and Understanding

#### Government & Democracy

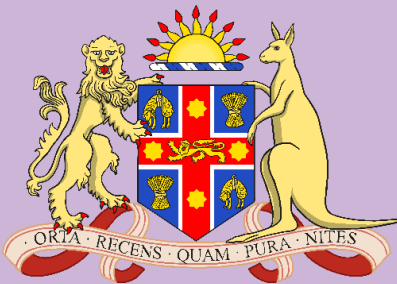
- The key institutions of Australia's democratic system of government based on the Westminster system, including the monarchy, parliaments, and courts [\(ACHCK035\)](#)
- The roles and responsibilities of the three levels of government, including shared roles and responsibilities within Australia's federal system [\(ACHCK036\)](#)

#### The Law & Citizens

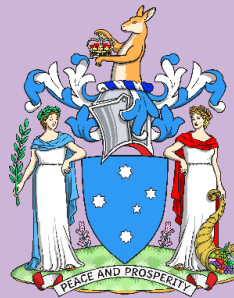
- How state/territory and federal laws are initiated and passed through parliament [\(ACHCK037\)](#)

# Six Colonies

Before 1901, Australia was made up of six colonies. These colonies were partly self-governing but still under the law-making power of the British Parliament.



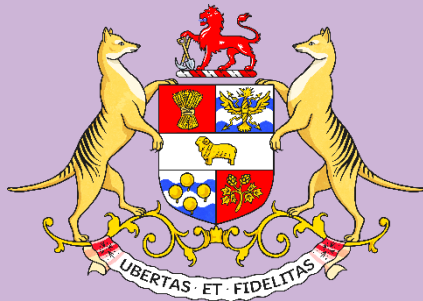
New South Wales



Victoria



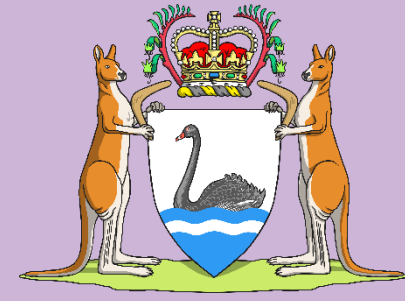
South Australia



Tasmania



Queensland



Western Australia



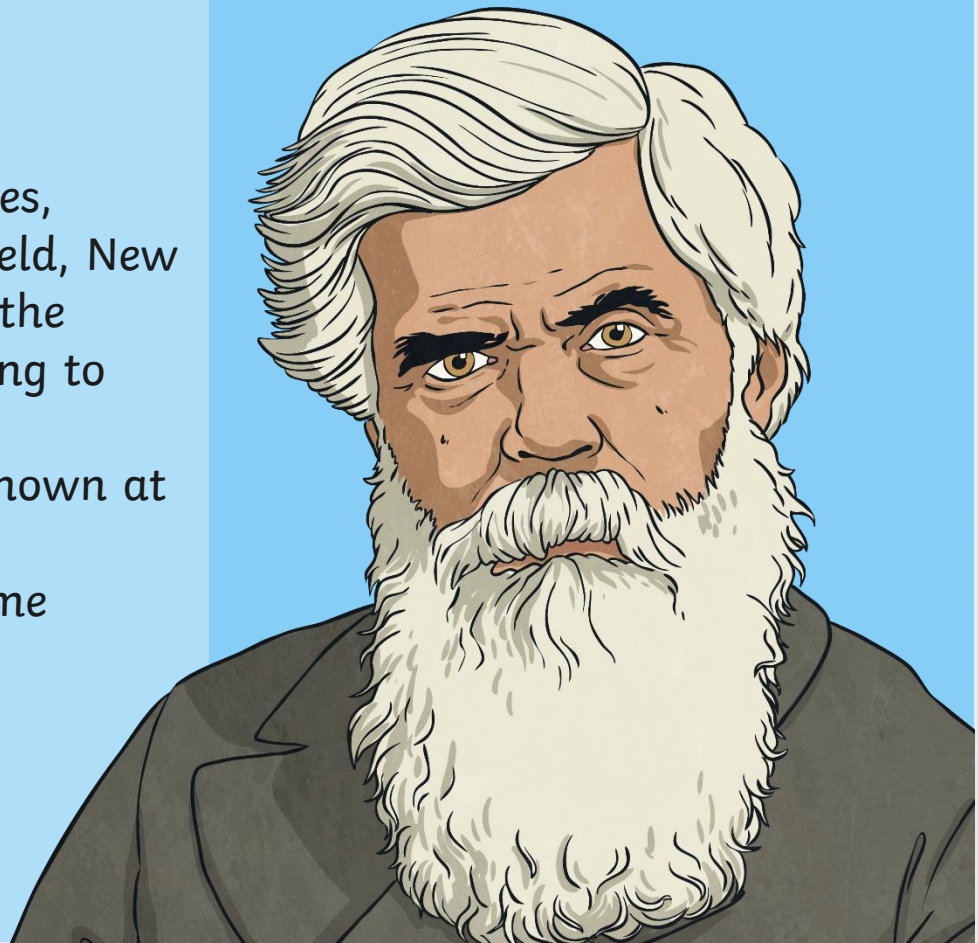
# 1889

Henry Parkes, then colonial secretary of New South Wales, delivers a speech at Tenterfield, New South Wales, calling for all the colonies to 'federate', meaning to unite.

This speech went on to be known as the Tenterfield Oration.

Sir Henry Parkes later became known as

**'The Father of Federation'.**



# Federation

## Reasons for:

- National pride - the majority of the colonised population wanted to be recognised as Australian.
- There would be one army, one postal service and one rail gauge.
- Federation would remove taxes on goods when crossing borders, allowing for free trade between colonies.
- Colonies could share natural resources.
- Australians wanted to influence the rules or laws that affected them, instead of the British having this control.
- There would be consistent laws on immigration.

## Reasons against:

- Poorer colonies thought the rich colonies would not listen to them and would take control.
- Rich colonies did not want to share their wealth and resources with poorer colonies.
- Federation would take some time and many important decisions would need to be made.
- Poorer colonies liked the existing tax system as they made money by taxing goods.



# 1890

A delegation is called to the Australasian Federation Convention in Melbourne. It is decided that Australia will follow the British parliamentary system and use the United States Constitution as an example.



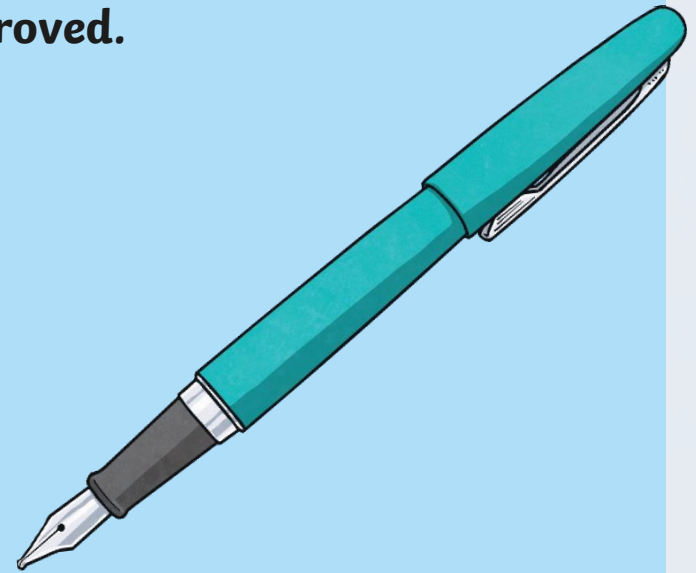


# 1891



A constitutional convention is held in Sydney.

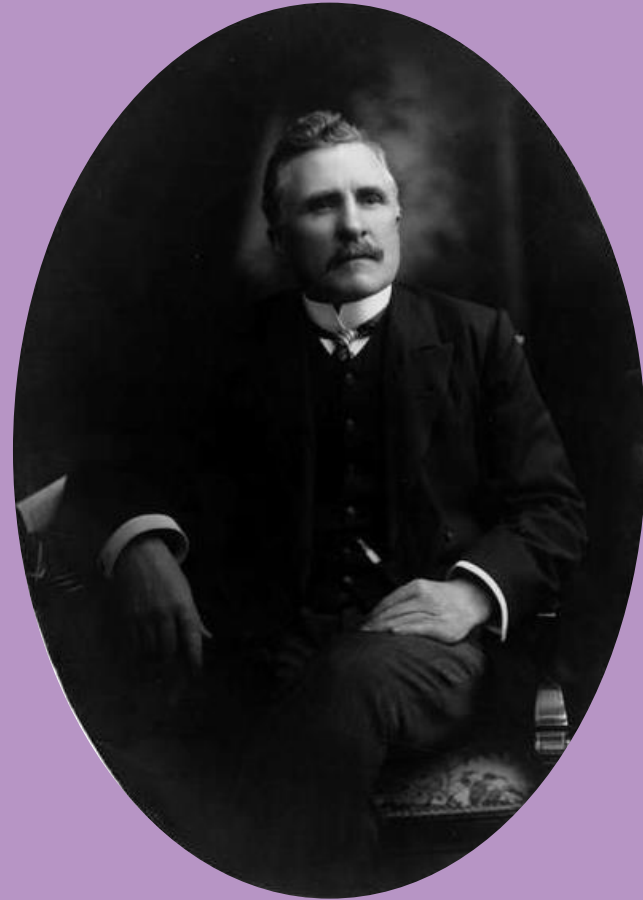
**The first draft of the Constitution is written and approved.**



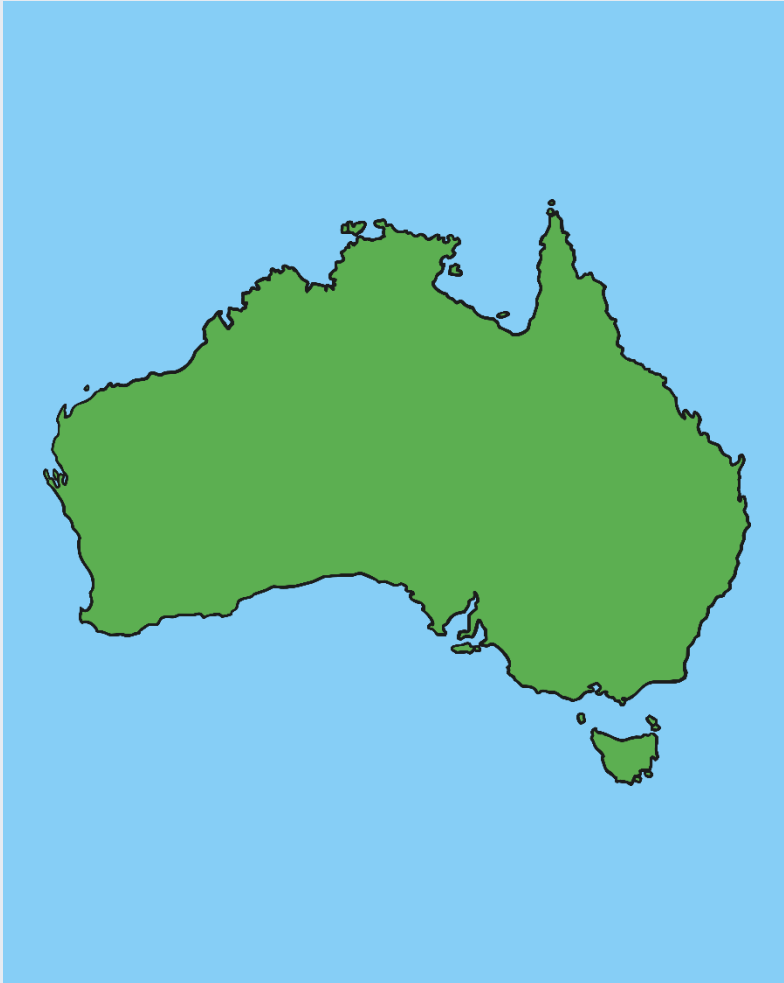


# 1893

- A meeting is held in Corowa, New South Wales.
- Sir John Quick, a journalist and Victorian politician, proposes a new draft Constitution to be written by elected colony representatives and argues that the public should vote on the draft.
- Quick's ideas became known as the 'Corowa Plan'.



# 1897-1898



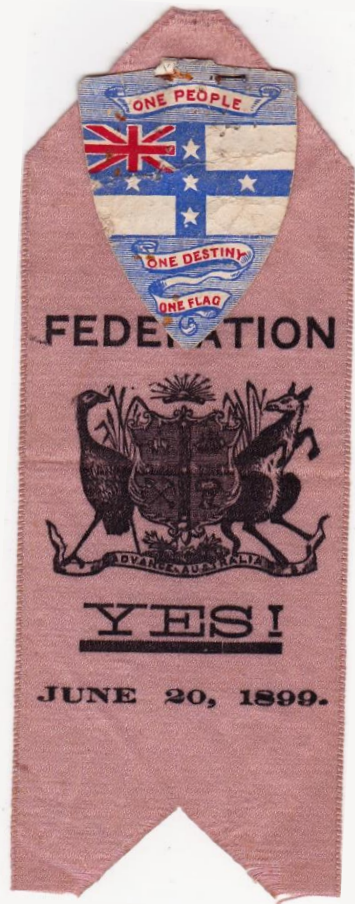
Three more conventions are held. Delegates from each colony must first decide whether or not to use the 1891 draft Constitution. During these conventions, delegates return to their colonies to discuss the new draft and make changes accordingly. New changes are discussed at the following convention, until a final draft is decided on.

# 1898

- The First Referendum is held in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.
- Changes are made in the Constitution and the public votes once more.
- All participating colonies vote 'yes' to federation.



# 1899



- The Second Referendum is held in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland.
- Changes are once again made to the Constitution and the public votes again.
- All participating colonies vote 'yes' to federation.

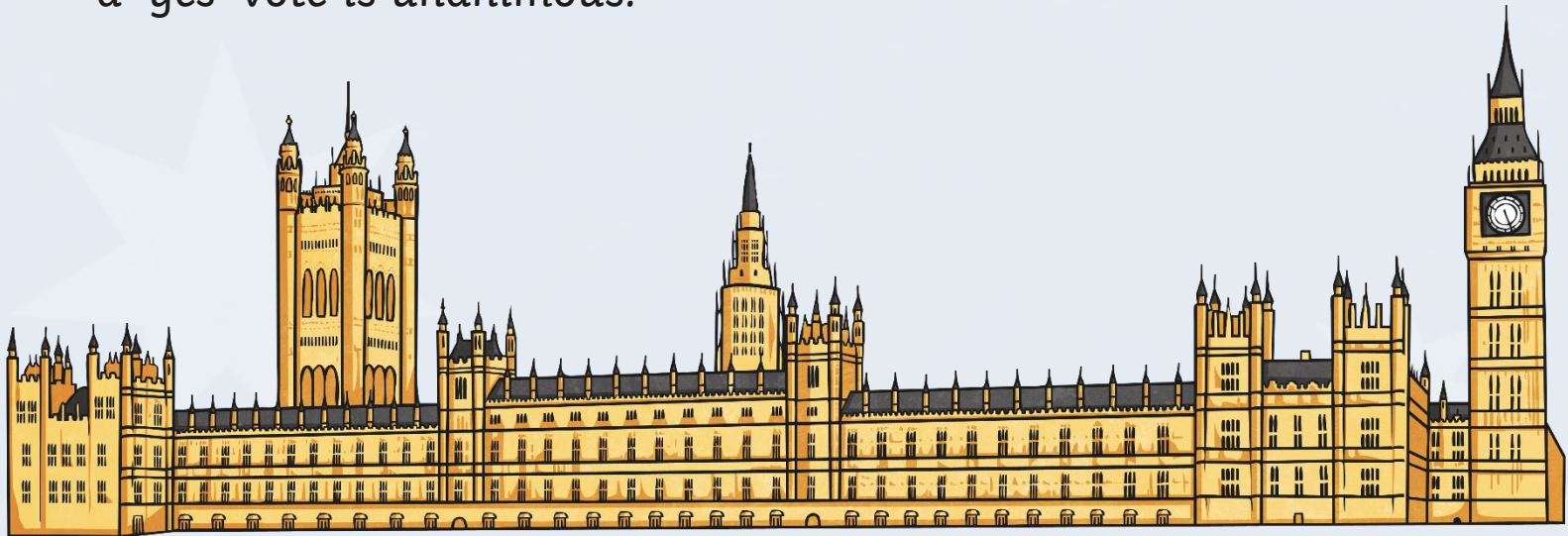


**Which colony was missing from  
the voting process?**

Do some research to  
find out why.

# 1900

- A team of politicians travel to London to present the Constitution to the British Government.
- British Parliament passes the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, which allows the colonies to federate.
- Western Australian members of the public cast their vote and a 'yes' vote is unanimous.



# 1901

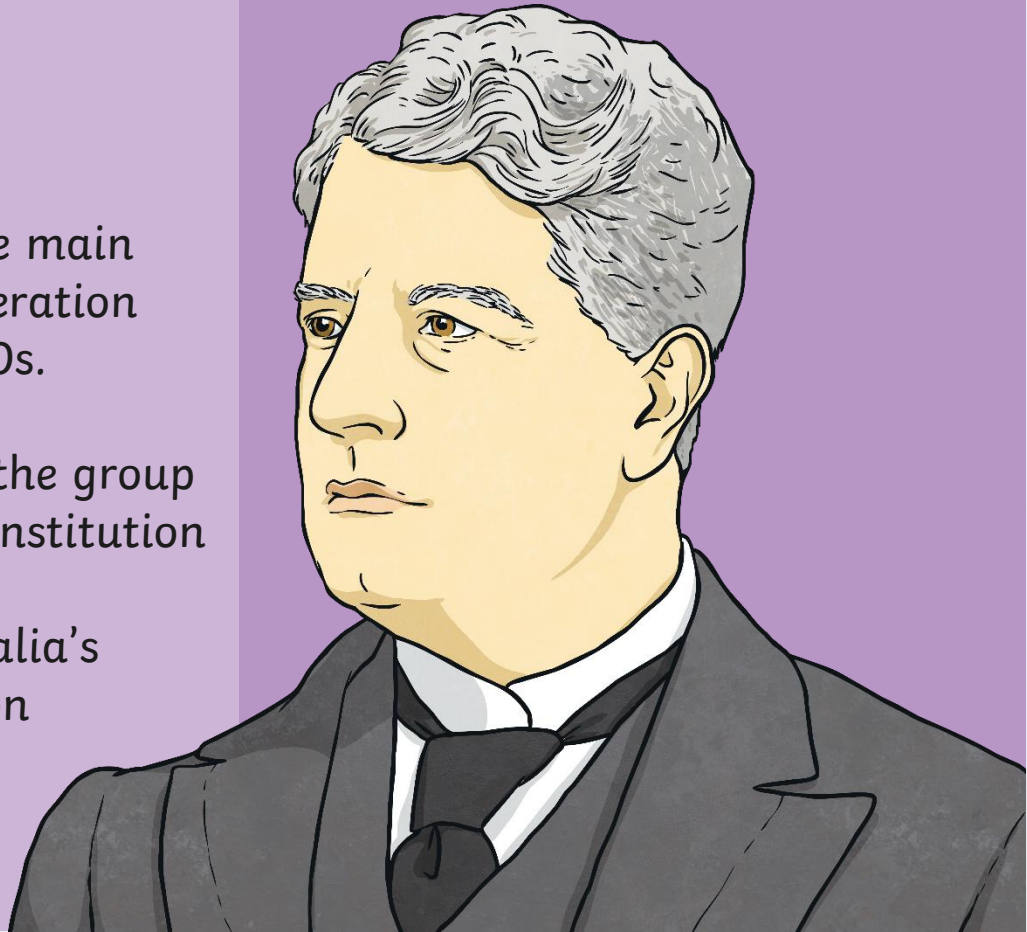
On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1901 all of the colonies of Australia federate and become states of one nation:



# Australia's First Prime Minister

## Edmund Barton

- Barton was one of the main supporters of the Federation movement in the 1890s.
- He helped draft the Constitution and led the group who presented the Constitution to British Parliament.
- Barton became Australia's First Prime Minister on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1901.





# Test Your Knowledge

1. Before the federation, what were the six colonies of Australia?

a) Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania

b) Northern Territories, Australian Capital Territory, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, Tasmania

c) Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Hobart

d) Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, Northern Territories, Australian Capital Territory

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

2. Who was the man who delivered a speech at Tenterfield, New South Wales, calling on the colonies to federate?

a) Sir William Tenterfield

b) Edmund Barton

c) John Howard

d) Sir Henry Parkes

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

3. In which year was the first referendum?

a) 1901

b) 1891

c) 1898

d) 1889

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

4. In which year was the second referendum?

a) 1899

b) 1891

c) 1898

d) 1900

**Reveal answer**



# Test Your Knowledge

5. Who was responsible for the 'Corowa Plan'?

a) Edmund Barton

b) Robert Menzies

c) Malcolm Turnbull

d) Sir John Quick

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

6. Which colony was the last to hold a referendum?

a) Tasmania

b) Western Australia

c) Victoria

d) Queensland

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

7. What was the date of the Australian Federation?

a) 26<sup>th</sup> January, 1788

b) 25<sup>th</sup> December, 1985

c) 1<sup>st</sup> January, 1901

d) 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2010

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

8. Who is known as 'The Father of Federation'?

a) Sir Henry Parkes

b) Sir Elton John

c) Sir Edmund Barton

d) Sir John Quick

**Reveal answer**

# Test Your Knowledge

9. Who was Australia's first Prime Minister?

a) Captain James Cook

b) Captain Jack Sparrow

c) Sir Edmund Barton

d) Sir John Quick

**Reveal answer**



# Test Your Knowledge

10. Which of the following was a reason FOR Federation?

a) Rich colonies did not want to share their wealth with the poorer colonies.

b) Australia could be put on the world map.

c) It was too hard and too many important decisions would need to be made.

d) There would be one army, one postal service and one rail gauge.

**Reveal answer**

